Tista Project

814. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been long time overrun and huge cost escalation of the Tista Project; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The main reasons are:

(i) taking up of new works during the course of implementation of the project; and

(ii) non-availability of adequate funds and consequent prolongation of the construction period resulting in cost escalation.

Sugar production

815. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of sugar in the country by the end of March, 1987;

(b) the production of sugar in the country for the corresponding period last year;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the quantity of sugar per unit to be distributed through P.D.S. in the rural areas; and

(d) whether Government propose to fix up a sugar quota for domestic consumption to the sugarcane suppliers on the basis of their yearly total supply of sugarcane to the sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The estimated production of sugar in the country upto 31st March, 1987 during the current 1986-87 season aggregated to 66.92 lakh tonnes as against 59.96 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year.

(c) The State Governments/Union Territories are allotted levy sugar quota generally on the basis of 425 grams per month per capita for the projected population as on 1-10-1986. The pattern of allocation to the Public Distribution System within the State is decided by the State Governments themselves with reference to local requirements and circumstances, on the basis of norms fixed by them.

(d) Under the present policy of partial control, levy sugar quota is allotted to each State Government/Union Territory for distribution among the entire population which includes the cane growers.

Abolition of posts by the ICAR

816. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Agricultural Research had recently abolished a large number of posts in its all India Coordinated Projects for various crops;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this step of the ICAR is likely to lead to dislocation and in some cases even unemployment, of hundreds of agricultural scientists and supporting staff; and

(d) if so, the number of persons likely to be unemployed as a result thereof and what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Details of some of the posts abolished/readjusted and the reasons therefor together with new positions